

SACA Brief: Parent
Grade 7/Year 8

Fast Track Project Technical Report
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Citation

Instrument

Stiffman, A. R., Horwitz, S. M., Hoagwood, K., Compton, W., Cottler, L., Bean, D. L., Narrow, W. E., & Weisz, J.R. (2000). The Service Assessment for Children and Adolescents (SACA): Adult and child reports. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 39(8), 1032-1039.

Report

Jones, D. E and Godwin, J. (2010). SACA Brief: Parent (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

Data Sources

Raw: p7ac

Scored: mhb7

I. Scale Description

Four versions of the SACA have been administered over time. The table below describes which versions were administered over time and across cohorts. This report includes a description of all versions but only includes descriptive statistics for study year 8.

Grade	Study Year	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3
6	7	SACA		SACA - Not So Brief
7	8	SACA - Brief	SACA - Not So Brief	
8	9	SACA - Not So Brief		SACA - Not So Brief Revised
9	10	SACA - Not So Brief	SACA - Not So Brief Revised	
10	11	SACA - Not So Brief Revised		
11	12	SACA - Not So Brief Revised		
12	13	SACA - Not So Brief Revised		

SACA –Full:

The SACA (Stiffman et al., 2000) collects parents' reports of their children's use of mental health services. Specifically, the measure asks about "any treatment or help your child may have received for emotional, behavioral, or drug or alcohol problems". The instrument includes a maximum of 331 questions (plus 10 introductory demographic questions). The initial items are 'gate-level' questions that ask about the child's lifetime use covering 23 different categories of inpatient and outpatient service use plus additional questions regarding police contact.

Inpatient service providers include:

1. Psychiatric hospital
2. Psychiatric or medical unit in a general hospital
3. Drug or alcohol treatment unit
4. Residential treatment center
5. Group home
6. Foster home
7. Detention center, prison or jail
8. Emergency shelter
9. Any other place like a summer treatment program or boarding school

Outpatient service providers include:

1. Mental health clinic
2. Professionals like a psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, or marriage or family counselor
3. Partial hospitalization or day treatment program
4. Drug or alcohol clinic
5. In-Home therapist or counselor, or family preservation worker
6. Emergency room
7. Pediatrician or family doctor
8. Probation or juvenile corrections officer or court counselor
9. Priest, minister, rabbi, or spiritual counselor
10. Healer, shaman, or curandero
11. Acupuncturist, or chiropractor
12. Self-help group like Alcoholics Anonymous or peer counseling
13. Respite care provider
14. Services at school

If a parent reports that their child never received any services, he/she is only asked these initial 25 questions. Any use over a child's lifetime for a particular category (e.g., psychiatric hospital) leads to a separate section with more in-depth questions about service use in the past 12 months, including (1) when the child first received services, (2) name and address of most recent service provider, (3) total number of days served, (4) child's reaction to services, (5) who referred the child to services, and (6) who paid for the services. The number and type of follow-up questions vary slightly between categories.

The SACA also asks whether the child was ever arrested, picked up, or given a warning by the police. If yes, follow-up questions collect information on the number of police contacts in the child's lifetime, his/her age at first contact, his/her worst offense, and the outcome of his/her most recent police contact.

SACA –Brief:

In year 8, a very brief questionnaire consisting of 27 items culled from the original instrument was given in place of the original SACA. The measure includes 4 'gate-level' questions about services for emotional, behavioral, drug or alcohol problems in the previous 12 months (not over the child's lifetime) including inpatient facilities, outpatient services, school services, and police contact. Follow-up questions ask

about whether these services included specific types of facilities and about the frequency, age at first use and length of use across all types of facilities/services. These questions are not asked individually for each specific type of facility/provider.

SACA –Not So Brief:

Beginning in year 9, a new survey of service use was created by the Fast Track Project which was based on the original SACA. This version asks the parent a maximum of 154 questions that cover 16 categories of service use as well as police contact. As with the original SACA, parents are asked a minimum of one question per category and answer more detailed questions if they indicate that their child had used a particular service-type. Follow-up questions within a category are similar to the original SACA (e.g., extent of service use in the past year, amount of money spent on services, payment sources, etc.).

One distinction between this new version and the original version of the SACA is that service-use is recorded regardless of whether the child was seen for emotional/behavioral problems. Within each general health-type service category (e.g., emergency room or family doctor), parents report whether the child's visit was for emotional/behavioral reasons or for general health reasons.

Inpatient service providers include:

1. Psychiatric hospital
2. General hospital
3. Residential treatment center
4. Group home
5. Foster home
6. Emergency shelter
7. Overnight stay in other facility

Outpatient service providers include:

1. Mental health center
2. Day treatment or partial hospitalization
3. Drug and alcohol clinic
4. In-home therapists or family preservation workers
5. Respite care
6. Counselors and therapists
7. Counseling in school
8. Emergency room
9. Pediatrician or family doctor

This new version of the SACA also asks more detailed questions about police contact, including the number of arrests in past 12 months, the number of non-arrest police contacts, the amount of time spent in detention facilities before trial, the number of court appearances, outcomes from court appearances, and the offenses for which the child was adjudicated.

SACA –Not So Brief Revised:

Beginning in year 11, a revised version of SACA-Not So Brief was administered. All of the original items were included and some additional information was also collected. The revised version asks whether the child has health care insurance and collects the provider's name when applicable. In addition, the original SACA only recorded whether Fast Track personnel referred the child to a service, whereas the revised version records whether anyone has referred the child to a service. The revised school counseling section divides counseling/services into mental health services and other. It also includes questions about whether school counselors referred the child to additional services outside the school. Finally, the revised police contact section captures whether the juvenile court referred the child to

additional services.

II. Report Sample

The explanatory analyses in this report were conducted on the Cohort 1 normative (n=387) and high-risk control samples (n=155, N=463 with overlap) in grade 7/year 8. One hundred eighty parents did not complete the entire measure (39% of the sample), including 149 from the normative sample (39% of the sample) and 59 from the high-risk control sample (36% of the sample). Parents who did not complete the measure include 13 from Durham (10%), 23 from Nashville (22%), 122 from Penn State (98%), and 22 from Seattle (20%).

III. Scaling

No scales were derived for this instrument.

IV. Differences Between Groups

Chi-Square tests of independence between the high-risk control and the low-risk normative sample were conducted for the 4 gate-level questions regarding any use of inpatient mental health services, outpatient mental health services, school services for mental health reasons and any police contact in the past 12 months. Additional tests examine differences in specific types of services used within each broader category.

The results for many of the tests, however, are questionable given the low frequency of use for many services. A test may not be valid if fewer than 5 respondents in a sample (normative or control) were expected to meet the diagnosis criteria (or the diagnosis plus impairment criteria). An * indicates that fewer than 5 respondents in both samples were expected to meet the criteria, while an ** indicates that fewer than 5 respondents in one sample were expected to meet the criteria.

The high risk control sample had a higher rate of use than the normative sample for the following services (in the past 12 months):

- Overnight in detention center*
- Any outpatient treatment in last year
- Outpatient therapy/counseling
- Help from a probation officer*
- Any services at school in last year
- School for behavior/emotional problems**
- Class for behavior/emotional problems
- Received counseling/therapy at school
- Any contact with police/courts in last year
- Ever been arrested, picked up, or warned in last year

The high-risk control and normative samples did not significantly differ in their use of other services.

Chi Square Test for Normative and Control for Dichotomous Scored Variables								
Variable		Percent Used Services		DF	N	Chi Square Statistic	P-value	
		Norm	Control					
Overnight in Any Type Activity-Last Year	P8W1	0.02	0.06	1	283	2.85	0.09	**
Overnight in Psychiatric Hospital	P8W1A	0.01	0.01	1	283	0.20	0.65	*
Overnight in Treatment Unit	P8W1B	0.00	0.00		283			
Overnight in Residential Treatment Unit	P8W1C	0.01	0.01	1	283	0.00	0.95	*
Overnight in Foster Home	P8W1D	0.01	0.01	1	283	0.20	0.65	*
Overnight in Detention Center	P8W1E	0.01	0.05	1	282	6.26	0.01	*
Outpatient Treatment in Last Year	P8W2	0.04	0.17	1	283	14.82	0.00	
Outpatient Therapy/Counseling	P8W2A	0.03	0.13	1	283	10.01	0.00	
Outpatient Drug/Alcohol Clinic	P8W2B	0.01	0.01	1	283	0.20	0.65	*
Help From Probation Officer	P8W2C	0.01	0.04	1	283	4.54	0.03	*
Help From Priest, Minister, or Rabbi	P8W2D	0.00	0.01	1	282	1.86	0.17	*
Received Services at School in Last Year	P8W3	0.04	0.26	1	282	27.71	<.0001	
School for Behavior/Emotional Problems	P8W3A	0.01	0.10	1	283	12.88	0.00	**
Class for Behavior/Emotional Problems	P8W3B	0.02	0.14	1	283	15.48	<.0001	
Received Counseling/Therapy at School	P8W3C	0.03	0.09	1	282	4.31	0.04	
Contact With Police/Courts in Last Year	P8W4	0.05	0.16	1	283	10.15	0.00	
Ever Been Arrested, Picked Up, or Warned	P8W4A	0.03	0.10	1	283	5.65	0.02	

V. Recommendations for Use

The SACA-Brief data provides broad and useful information on whether the child used any mental health services or had any contact with police in the last 12 months.

Analysts should examine how many participants positively endorsed receiving services before generating descriptive statistics or using outcomes in statistical models. In general, most items will have a high frequency of participants who report not receiving any services (i.e., zeros), so examination of individual response distributions is highly advised.